
DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION MEMORANDUM

TO: SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
FROM: TAMMY LAWSON
SUBJECT: DISASTER RELIEF
DATE: 7/9/2008

Everyone from the local level to the state level has been very busy with disaster relief activities over the last month to rehabilitate our land and assist landowners in their recovery efforts. I commend and thank you for your efforts thus far. The SSCB and ISDA look forward to being better able to support you in the weeks to come as needs become more defined and resources become available.

As these efforts continue there are several opportunities that are critical for Districts to be aware of as we move forward. The Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) will soon put together a Web page to keep you informed of the tools and programs available to your District as you assist your landowners.

In the meantime, there are two items that should be noted immediately and have been included below in this memo.

Emergency Conservation Assistance Program (ECAP)

The SSCB voted on July 8, 2008 to begin establishing funding needs for disaster affected landowners by enlisting the assistance of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts who serve the primary and contiguous federally declared disaster counties through the newly developed ECAP. As rehabilitation estimates are established, the SSCB will be better prepared to allocate disaster funding as it is made available through state or federal sources. The attached guidance identifies the objectives for the funding, eligibility criteria, a list of suggested projects, and instructions on how to prepare the funding estimates.

To be as timely as possible, the SSCB has asked that Districts respond to this request by **July 25, 2008**. Districts can participate in a conference call **on July 10, tomorrow, at 2:00 PM** to learn more about this opportunity for your county. The number to call in is: **1-866-899-5399** (room number ***9031031***).

Staff Changes-Effective Immediately

There are several temporary staff changes that you need to be aware of

ISDA Director Andy Miller

Andy Miller recently accepted the temporary special assignment to manage the newly created Office of Disaster Recovery. Ken Klemme will serve as acting Director while Miller is on special assignment. For more information visit: http://www.in.gov/portal/news_events/24316.htm .

District Support Specialists (DSS) Assignment

Sara Slater-Atwater DSS-CNE has been temporarily assigned to serve as DSC's Disaster Relief Coordinator. We will keep you posted as Atwater's role continues to develop over the next few weeks. In the meantime, the District Support Specialist team will be adjusting their coverage areas to best assist all Districts in the state. Please see the attached DSS map for more information on specific DSS county assignments.

Technical Flood Assistance Staff Assignment

Resource Specialists have been assigned to serve as the direct contacts for farmers needing technical assistance with their disaster recovery. These staff assignments are also the contact for landowners seeking more information and financial assistance from the Treasurer's Conservation Assistance Program (TCAP). For more information on specific county assignments, view the staff map at:

http://www.in.gov/isda/files/ISDA_Staff_Assignments_with_Contact_Info.pdf . For more information on TCAP, visit: <http://www.in.gov/tos/2829.htm>

You will soon receive a link to a Web page to keep you informed of the latest disaster relief programs and assistance available to your District.

Please feel free to contact our office at (317) 232-8700 or your DSS with questions, suggestions or comments. Thank you for your dedication to Indiana's Soil and Water and your leadership during this time of need.